

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, KU

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: KUWAITI REQUEST FOR BILATERAL CIVAIR
CONSULTATIONS

DEPARTMENT ON JULY 24, HANDED NOTE, TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS,
TO KUWAITI EMBASSY COUNSELOR AL HASSANI.

BEGIN TEXT:

"THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERS TO THE NOTE DATED
FEBRUARY 14, 1975 FROM THE EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT,
WHICH EXPRESSED THE DESIRE OF THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENTAL
AUTHORITIES IN KUWAIT TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH
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UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONCLUSION
OF AN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

"THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE UNITED STATES

AGENCIES HAVE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO A POSSIBLE BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT AS WELL AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING DIRECT AIR SERVICES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. VARIOUS DATA CONCERNING PRESENT LEVELS OF PASSENGER AND CARGO TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF KUWAIT, HOWEVER, LEAD TO THE INESCAPABLE

CONCLUSION THAT, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, TRAFFIC LEVELS DO NOT JUSTIFY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT, SCHEDULED AIR SERVICES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES ARE UNABLE, THEREFORE, TO CONSIDER CONCLUDING A BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF KUWAIT UNTIL THEY ARE PERSUADED THAT THE AIR SERVICES FOLLOWING SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD BE OPERATED ON A SOUND ECONOMIC BASIS.

"THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT, FOR THE MOMENT, THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AIR TRANSPORT MARKET BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF KUWAIT ARE MORE THAN ADEQUATELY SERVED BY EXCELLENT CONNECTING SERVICES AT BEIRUT AND ELSEWHERE. KUWAIT AIRWAYS PROVIDES DAILY, NONSTOP SERVICE BETWEEN KUWAIT AND BEIRUT AT GOOD CONNECTING TIMES FOR ONWARD FLIGHTS TO EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. KUWAIT AIRWAYS ALSO PROVIDES DIRECT SERVICE TO MAJOR EUROPEAN POINTS WHERE TRAVELERS CAN MAKE CONVENIENT ONWARD CONNECTIONS.

"IT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT, WHILE DIRECT SERVICES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF KUWAIT CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS GIVEN PRESENT MARKET CONDITIONS, DIRECT SERVICES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND POINTS IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA AND GULF REGION INCLUDING KUWAIT MAY BE JUSTIFIED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. THE DEPARTMENT REALIZES THAT A NUMBER OF FACTORS WOULD COMPLICATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REGION AS A WHOLE. FOR EXAMPLE, PRESENT ARAB POLICY WHICH PRECLUDES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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UNITED STATES AIRLINE INTRA-REGIONAL AND HENCE POTENTIALLY PROFITABLE OPERATIONS IS ONE SUCH FACTOR. ANOTHER FACTOR WHICH MUST BE ADDRESSED IS THE POTENTIALLY DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF OVERCAPACITY SHOULD AIRLINES OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA AND GULF REGION INDEPENDENTLY MOUNT SERVICES BETWEEN THE REGION AND THE UNITED STATES TO THE DETRIMENT OF VIABLE AIRLINE OPERATIONS AND SERVICE TO THE TRAVELING PUBLIC.

"THE DEPARTMENT IS CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT THESE AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES ARE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE, AND IS ANXIOUS TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

FOR EVENTUAL DIRECT AIR SERVICES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PENINSULA AND GULF REGION ON A SOUND ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL BASIS. WHILE BILATERAL AVIATION TALKS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND KUWAITI AUTHORITIES WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AT PRESENT FOR THE REASONS MENTIONED, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO EARLY MULTILATERAL

CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES, KUWAIT AND OTHER ARABIAN PENINSULA AND GULF REGION GOVERNMENTS. IN THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW, THESE CONSULTATIONS COULD, FOR EXAMPLE, PROFITABLY EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING DIRECT AIR SERVICES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND POINTS IN THE REGION AND THE QUESTION OF THE APPROPRIATE TYPE OF AGREEMENTS PROVIDING THE FRAMEWORK FOR SUCH SERVICES IF THEY APPEAR FEASIBLE.

"DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

"WASHINGTON." KISSINGER

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